

Flaxseed

Flaxseed Grades and Grade Requirements

There are no classes of flaxseed. Flaxseed is divided into two numerical grades and U.S. Sample grade. Other determinations not specifically provided for under the general provisions are made on the basis of the grain when free from

dockage, except the determination of odor is made on either the basis of the grain as a whole or the grain when free from dockage.

U.S. Standards for Flaxseed

Grade	Minimum test weight per bushel (pounds)	Maximum limits of damaged kernels	
		Heat damaged kernels (percent)	Total (percent)
U.S. No. 1	49.0	0.2	10.0
U.S. No. 2	47.0	0.5	15.0
U.S. Sample Grade			

U.S. Sample grade is flaxseed that:

- (a) Does not meet the requirements for the grades U.S. Nos. 1 or 2; or
- (b) Contains 8 or more stones which have an aggregate weight in excess of 0.2 percent of the sample weight, 2 or more pieces of glass, 3 or more crotalaria seeds (*Crotalaria* spp.), 2 or more castor beans (*Ricinus communis* L.), 4 or more particles of an unknown foreign substance(s) or a commonly recognized harmful or toxic substance(s), 10 or more rodent pellets, bird dropping, or equivalent quantity of other animal filth per 1-1/8 to 1-1/4 quarts of flaxseed; or
- (c) Has a musty, sour, or commercially objectionable foreign odor (except smut or garlic odor), or
- (d) Is heating or otherwise of distinctly low quality.

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Definitions

Flaxseed. Grain that, before the removal of dockage, consists of 50 percent or more of common flaxseed (*Linum usitatissimum* L.) and not more than 20 percent of other grains for which standards have been established under the United States Grain Standards Act and which, after the removal of dockage, contains 50 percent or more of whole flaxseed.

Damaged kernels. Kernels and pieces of flaxseed kernels that are badly grounddamaged, badly weather-damaged, diseased, frost-damaged, germ-damaged, heatdamaged, insect-bored, mold-damaged, sprout-damaged, or otherwise materially damaged.

Dockage. All matter other than flaxseed that can be removed from the original sample by use of an approved device according to procedures prescribed in FGIS instructions. Also, underdeveloped, shriveled, and small pieces of flaxseed kernels removed in properly separating the material other than flaxseed and that cannot be recovered by properly rescreening or recleaning.

Heat-damaged kernels. Kernels and pieces of flaxseed kernels that are materially discolored and damaged by heat.

Other grains. Barley, corn, cultivated buckwheat, einkorn, emmer, guar, hull-less barley, nongrain sorghum, oats, Polish wheat, popcorn, poulard wheat, rice, rye, safflower, sorghum, soybeans, spelt, sunflower seed, sweet corn, triticale, wheat, and wild oats.

Table 18. U.S. Flaxseed Exports: Number of lots and quantity exported by class and grade, 2003-2005

	2003		2004		2005	
	Number of Lots	Metric Tons	Number of Lots	Metric Tons	Number of Lots	Metric Tons
U.S.No. 1	5	48,860	3	22,935	10	81,633
All lots	5	48,860	3	22,935	10	81,633

-- = No lots reported in this category.

Table 19. Summary of export Flaxseed quality, 2003-2005

Factor	Grade	Grade Limit	2003				2004				2005			
			No. of Lots	Avg.	Low	High	No. of Lots	Avg.	Low	High	No. of Lots	Avg.	Low	High
Test Weight (lb/bu)	U.S.No. 1	49.0	5	50.0	49.1	50.1	3	50.2	49.4	51.3	10	50.6	49.5	50.9
	All lots	N/A	5	50.0	49.1	50.1	3	50.2	49.4	51.3	10	50.6	49.5	50.9
Test Weight (kg/hl)	U.S.No. 1	N/A	5	64.4	63.2	64.5	3	64.6	63.6	66.0	10	65.2	63.7	65.5
	All lots	N/A	5	64.4	63.2	64.5	3	64.6	63.6	66.0	10	65.2	63.7	65.5
Moisture	U.S.No. 1	N/A	5	6.8	6.3	7.6	3	7.6	7.4	7.7	10	7.5	6.9	8.0
	All lots	N/A	5	6.8	6.3	7.6	3	7.6	7.4	7.7	10	7.5	6.9	8.0
Heat-damaged kernels	U.S.No. 1	0.2	5	0.0	0.0	0.0	3	0.0	0.0	0.0	10	0.0	0.0	0.1
	All lots	N/A	5	0.0	0.0	0.0	3	0.0	0.0	0.0	10	0.0	0.0	0.1
Damaged Flaxseed (Total)	U.S.No. 1	10.0	5	0.0	0.0	0.0	3	0.2	0.0	0.4	10	0.0	0.0	0.2
	All lots	N/A	5	0.0	0.0	0.0	3	0.2	0.0	0.4	10	0.0	0.0	0.2
Dockage	U.S.No. 1	N/A	5	5.4	5.0	6.0	3	4.8	3.6	5.7	10	5.0	4.0	6.5
	All lots	N/A	5	5.4	5.0	6.0	3	4.8	3.6	5.7	10	5.0	4.0	6.5

N/A = Does not apply.

-- = No lots reported in this category.